

## AUGUST 2007

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## EXCELLENCE IN COMMUNICATIONS CITY HONORED WITH AWARDS

THE CITY RECENTLY PICKED UP FOUR awards in the 2007 Minnesota Association of Government Communicators' Northern Lights competition. The *Briefing*, *Insider* and 2006 *Corporate Report to the Community* received Awards of Excellence. *Bloomington Today: Year in Review 2006* was honored with an Award of Merit. This year's contest drew 143 entries from across the state. Judges' comments included, "Impressive use of City dollars," and "Nice job! You made it clear that you are making an impact on your market." For more information, call Janine Hill at 952-563-8819.

## BOOK 'EM ANNUAL BOOK SALE A SUCCESS

THE 15TH annual used book sale held in June broke all records. The event raised more than \$72,000 for the Bloomington Crime Prevention Association. The organization uses the proceeds to award grants to government agencies, schools, churches, nonprofit groups and individuals requesting financial support for specific projects that help prevent, reduce or mitigate crime.



## FRESH PRODUCE SOLD HERE AT THE FARMERS MARKET

DON'T MISS YOUR CHANCE TO BUY products from local farmers and growers. Arrive early and have your pick of the freshest vegetables, flowers, bread and homemade candy. On opening weekend in July, more than 1,000 people showed up at Civic Plaza for the City's first annual Farmers Market. Center for the Arts Manager Jim Urie hopes the Farmers Market will become a weekly tradition for residents.

"The Farmers Market is a great community-building activity," he said. "Thanks to everyone who helped with this exciting project."

The Bloomington Farmers Market is held **Saturdays through October 6 from**



**7 a.m. - noon** in the east parking lot of Bloomington Civic Plaza, 1800 W. Old Shakopee Road.

Parking is available in the west lot of the Civic Plaza on Logan Avenue. For more information, call 952-563-8889.

## COLORFUL MURAL CROWNS CENTER FOR THE ARTS DESIGN REFLECTS TEAMWORK AND COMMUNITY

THE CITY COUNCIL SELECTED ERIK Pearson to design and paint the 2,500-square-foot "canvas" on the exterior flyloft of the Center for the Arts, located on the northeast exterior corner of Bloomington Civic Plaza. Scaffolding was installed and the artist began working in late June.

Pearson is approaching the mural in the same manner as his paintings. Starting with a dark basecoat, he maps out his sketch, lays down heavy black expressive lines and then builds layers of color on top, working from the darkest to the lightest shades. The building's colors are used to pull the imagery together, while new colors add depth and excitement. To see the process, visit Civic Plaza or the City's Web site, [www.ci.bloomington.mn.us](http://www.ci.bloomington.mn.us), keyword: Mural.

Center for the Arts Manager Jim Urie is enthusiastic about the highly visible addition to the building.

"The mural will illustrate for passers-by and guests the extraordinary variety of artistic activity taking place here – from acting and singing to pottery and painting," Urie said. "The way the artists in the design are helping each other, from one medium to the next, also reflects the interconnected nature of the Bloomington Fine Arts Council groups."

A committee composed of community representatives with strong visual arts backgrounds and City staff reviewed the proposals. Durability and maintainability of the materials were important because it is hoped that the mural will last 10 - 15 years or longer.

Approximately half of the project's costs will be paid through a private donation from residents Allan and Debby Schneider. The remainder will be paid out of the Center for the Arts Capital Fund.

When finished, the Civic Plaza mural will be the most prominent work of art in Bloomington. A dedication and unveiling ceremony are planned for October 6. The mural is scheduled for completion by the end of September.



### ABOUT THE ARTIST

Erik R. Pearson has exhibited paintings, woodcuts and pastels in the Midwest and on the West Coast. In spring 2005, Pearson painted a 12-by-56-foot outdoor community mural in Lanesboro, Minnesota, with the help of local schoolchildren, various organizations and community members. He completed another mural for the Red Mug Coffeehouse in Superior, Wisconsin, during fall 2006. The Center for the Arts mural will be his third large-scale project.

CITY OF BLOOMINGTON  
1800 WEST OLD SHAKOPEE ROAD  
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# BLOOMINGTON JAZZ FESTIVAL

## GET DOWN WITH THESE 18-KARAT GROUPS



FAST BECOMING ONE OF THE PREMIER JAZZ events in the state, the Bloomington Jazz Festival will be held **Sunday, August 12, 2 - 7:30 p.m.**, at the Normandale Lake Bandshell, 84th Street and Chalet Road.

Fans of traditional New Orleans jazz will want to show up early as the award-winning **Jack Brass Band** takes the stage to open the festival.

**Maud Hixson's** great jazz vocals, *photo above right*, will be featured along with a top-notch instrumental quartet.

**Barbary Coast**, *photo above*, one of the finest Dixieland bands in the Upper Midwest, will perform many of their favorite traditional Dixieland tunes.

The **Minnesota Jazz Orchestra**, one of the top big bands in the state, will



### FESTIVAL LINE-UP

2 p.m.	Jack Brass Band
3:20 p.m.	Maud Hixson
4:40 p.m.	Barbary Coast
6 p.m.	Minnesota Jazz Orchestra

play many of the great songs from the big band era.

Parking is available in the ramps across 84th Street or to the east on Chalet Road. The event is free. For more information, call Parks and Recreation.

# RIVER RENDEZVOUS

## A LIVING HISTORY FESTIVAL

RIVER RENDEZVOUS IS A UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY TO SEE our rich past come alive. The event will be held at Pond-Dakota Mission Park, 401 East 104th St., on **Saturday, September 22, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.**

This year's event features music and dance performances by the Native Pride Dancers. Led by internationally known fancy dancer Larry Yazzie, *pictured right*, the group performs traditional Native American drumming, singing and dancing.

For more information, call Parks and Recreation or visit the City's Web site at [www.ci.bloomington.mn.us](http://www.ci.bloomington.mn.us), keyword: Rendezvous.



# SUMMER FETE SPONSORS

## THANK YOU!

### CORPORATE SPONSORS

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Haskell's Inc.  
Hillcrest Lakeview Farms  
Homeowner Association  
Le Bourget Aero Suites  
Micron Molding



Corporate donations totaled \$7,000 and individuals donated nearly \$10,000! Thank you sponsors!

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Ziegler Cat

# CENTER FOR THE ARTS

LOCATED IN BLOOMINGTON CIVIC PLAZA AT THE CORNER OF WEST 98TH AND OLD Shakopee Road, the Center for the Arts houses eight arts organizations. For facility information, call 952-563-8889. For exhibit information and events, call 952-563-8567 or visit the City's Web site, [www.ci.bloomington.mn.us](http://www.ci.bloomington.mn.us), keyword: Calendar. For more arts events, *see page 8*.

## EXHIBITIONS

### BLOOMINGTON ART CENTER

952-563-8587

#### INEZ GREENBERG GALLERY



Paris by Nicholas Harper.

**Magical Realism**, featuring Nicholas Harper and Ernest Miller, and **PURSEonal Time - 2007**, featuring artists with the Polymer Clay Guild of Minnesota, runs **August 17 - September 21**. Artists' reception is Friday, August 17, 6 - 8 p.m.

### GALLERY HOURS

Monday - Friday	8 a.m. - 10 p.m.
Saturday	9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Sunday	1 p.m. - 10 p.m.

### ATRIUM GALLERY

**Land and Sky**, featuring artist Adam Paul Johnson, runs **July 26 - September 9**.

**Drawn from Nature**, featuring artist Jan Shoger, runs **September 13 - October 28**.



Tenacious by Jan Shoger.

## SCHNEIDER THEATER

### THURSDAY MUSICAL

SERVING THE COMMUNITY THROUGH MUSIC

Thursday Musical announces the opening of its 116th concert season on **Thursday, October 4, 10:30 a.m.** Tickets are \$10 at the door. Season tickets are \$60/\$50 seniors and include 16 concerts. For more information, call 612-333-0313 or visit [www.thursdaymusical.com](http://www.thursdaymusical.com).



### A LITTLE NIGHT MUSIC

One of Stephen Sondheim's greatest and most beloved musicals will be performed **August 17 - September 9**. Tickets are \$19 - \$25. For more information, call 952-563-8575 or visit [bloomingtoncivictheatre.org](http://bloomingtoncivictheatre.org).

## BLACK BOX THEATER

### HARMONY

An exploration of relationships through poetry, prose, music and dance will be performed **Friday - Saturday, September 7 - 8, 7:30 p.m.**, and **Sunday, September 9\* at 2 p.m.** Tickets are \$17 adults; \$14 seniors/students. For tickets, call 952-563-8575. \*American Sign Language interpreted.

## CLASSES

### CONTINENTAL BALLET COMPANY

Continental Ballet Company is offering daily ballet lessons for beginning through advanced students. The fall session begins in September, but new students are welcome throughout the year. Registration is Monday - Thursday, 3:30 - 7:30 p.m., and Fridays, 3:30 - 6:30 p.m. For more information, call 952-563-8562.



DID YOU HEAR THE NEWS?  
19TH ANNUAL ANTIQUES SHOW AND SALE

Bloomington Art Center's 19th Annual Antiques Show and Sale will be held **Saturday - Sunday, September 22 - 23, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.**, at the Bloomington Armory, 3300 W. 98th St. Tickets are \$3.50.



MEETING THE NEEDS OF A CHANGING POPULATION DIVERSITY ENRICHES OUR COMMUNITY

By Mayor Gene Winstead

OUR COMMUNITY IS DIVERSE IN MANY ways. We have a variety of businesses ranging from the world-renowned Mall of America to the neighborhood retail store. Our housing stock swings from thousands of post-World War II homes to new energy-efficient residential towers. Bloomington’s parks vary from neighborhood playlots to a new urban park near a light rail transit line. See page 4.

Our population is also becoming increasingly diverse. The last census showed the median age for Bloomington residents was 40 years. Racial ethnic groups represented 13 percent of the population in 2000, an increase from 3.3 percent in 1980. The Bloomington School District reports that 34 percent of its students in 2006 were from non-Caucasian heritages and they predict that by 2013, that number will rise to 50 percent. Today, 76 languages are spoken by enrolled students.

The City has been working on a strategic plan to guide the community into this diverse future. Imagine Bloomington 2025 has provided insights to the needs of the community in relation to our changing demographics. An older population, fewer households with children and smaller families will determine future housing needs. Convenient and sustainable transportation alternatives that include pedestrian- and bike-friendly routes and improved public transit will be important. Park facilities and recreational programs will continue to adapt to the diverse needs of these future residents.

As a result of feedback regarding people and culture in Bloomington, the Human Rights Commission and Human Services Division explore additional ways to build trust, understanding and relationships. During the **week of September 17**, a traveling exhibit produced by Soka Gakkai International - USA, *Building a Culture of Peace for the Children of the World*, will be displayed in the lobby of Bloomington Civic Plaza, 1800 W. Old Shakopee Road.

Recognizing the rich variety within our community brings opportunities to reach out to our neighbors. This wide array of culture and art also brings exciting exposure to new ideas. As the City develops long-term goals for 2025, we will work to preserve the diversity of our businesses, housing and residents and look at how City services will adapt to better meet those needs.



Bloomington’s variety of businesses, housing, parks and transportation reflects the diversity of its citizens.



BUILDING TRUST, UNDERSTANDING AND RELATIONSHIPS SERVICES THAT MEET RESIDENTS’ NEEDS

For more information on these services and opportunities, call Human Services at 952-563-4957.

- **Cross-Cultural Conversations** – Help is available to facilitate conversations between community groups that wish to increase understanding about another culture.
- **Speakers Bureau** – Human Services maintains a list of individuals and organizations that can speak to your group on general characteristics of various cultural groups. Workshops and trainings are arranged directly between you and the speaker of your choice.
- **City services** – Support is available for people with limited English. Translation and interpretation services are available upon request.



MEET NEW LEADER OF PUBLIC WORKS KEEL ON BOARD AS THE DEPARTMENT’S DIRECTOR

KARL KEEL began as Public Works Director in May, replacing Charlie Honchell who retired in April.

Keel was Public Works Director for the cities of Shoreview (1992 - 1994) and Roseville (1994 - 2001). He was also Roseville’s Assistant Public Works Director (1988 - 1992). Since 2001, Keel

has been Vice President and Director of Infrastructure Engineering for URS Corporation in Minneapolis. He said he is looking forward to working in local government again.

“I really enjoy the wider range of projects, community service and development of long-term relationships that working in the public sector brings,” Keel said.

Keel is familiar with many major projects in Bloomington. While at URS, he worked with the City on American

Boulevard, the Lyle Berg Bridge, Mall of America’s Phase II infrastructure and improvements to Lyndale Avenue between 80th Street and I-494.

“I feel great about coming to Bloomington,” Keel said. “It’s a large community with a variety of things happening. The City and Public Works Department have great reputations.”

Keel holds a B.S. degree in civil engineering and a bachelor’s of architecture from the University of Minnesota.

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The *Briefing*, published bimonthly by the City of Bloomington, is mailed to our residents and businesses. Direct comments and requests for Braille, larger print or computer disk to Communications Administrator Janine Hill, 1800 W. Old Shakopee Rd., Bloomington MN 55431-3027; PH 952-563-8819; TTY 952-563-8740; FAX 952-563-8715; E-MAIL jhill@ci.bloomington.mn.us.

Web site: [www.ci.bloomington.mn.us](http://www.ci.bloomington.mn.us)

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The City of Bloomington complies with all applicable provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and does not discriminate on the basis of disability in the admission or access to, or treatment or employment in, its services, programs, or activities. Upon request, accommodation will be provided to allow individuals with disabilities to participate in all City of Bloomington services, programs, and activities. The City has designated coordinators to facilitate compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), and to coordinate compliance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 as mandated by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development regulations. For more information, contact the Human Services Division, City of Bloomington, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road, Bloomington, MN 55431-3027; (952)563-8733 (Voice); 952-563-8740 (TTY).

Upon request, this information can be available in Braille, large print, audio tape and/or electronic format.



# HRA RENTAL HOMES PROGRAM

## HELPING FAMILIES SAVE MONEY TO BUY A HOME

THE HOUSING AND REDEVELOPMENT Authority’s (HRA) Rental Homes Program for First-Time Homebuyers helps families save for a house while renting one of 21 single-family homes in Bloomington. Each month HRA saves a portion of the rent for a future down payment. Families also experience living in and caring for a single-family home.

Mohamed Ibrahim and Ubah Jama, along with their four children, are participating in the program. Ibrahim, the first Somali graduate from the University of Minnesota Medical School, is in his third year of residency to become a surgeon. Ibrahim said the program’s five-year time frame works for his family. He also enjoys maintaining the home, raking leaves and mowing.

“The goal is perfect for us,” Ibrahim said. “We hope to buy a starter home and this gives us a feel of what it is like.”

Many different types of families have successfully completed the transition from renter to homeowner.

“This program exceeded our expectations,” Ibrahim said. “The forced savings is a very good benefit. In just two more years we hope to purchase our first home.”

Participants must enter into a five-year contract that identifies the goals they need to complete to become homeowners. Families must have a minimum of three and no more than six members, an annual income of at least \$23,550, and good credit and rental histories. Families pay a minimum rent and utilities of approximately \$785 per month. All applicants are subject to criminal background checks and household members must be U.S. citizens or have eligible immigration status.



The HRA is currently accepting applications for this program. For more information, call 952-563-8937.

# DISABILITY EMPLOYMENT AWARENESS MONTH

## OCTOBER FEATURES EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

THE GOAL OF THIS MONTH-LONG EFFORT is to provide an opportunity for all people with disabilities to learn about job requirements, job placement, training programs and community advocacy programs. A variety of educational workshops and activities will be held, including artwork exhibits, resume writing and job applications, self advocacy, Internet job searching and more.

Nominations are currently being sought for the Disability Employment Awareness Month Business Recognition Awards, given to businesses that excel in the employment of people with disabilities. For activities offered throughout the community, visit [www.ci.bloomington.mn.us](http://www.ci.bloomington.mn.us), keyword: DEAM. For more information, call 952-563-4950.

# KEEP YOUR MIND SHARP

## EXERCISE YOUR BRAIN WITH MENTAL STIMULATION

MANY EXPERTS ON AGING BELIEVE THAT keeping your mind sharp with mental stimulation may decrease your risk of developing Alzheimer’s disease and other types of dementia. Math problems, crossword puzzles and memory games can be both fun and beneficial to your mind’s health. Take part in these stimulating brain activities and exercises at open computer lab sessions on the **2nd and 4th Mondays** of each month from 9:30 - 11:30 a.m., at Creekside Community Center, 9801 Penn Ave. S. Cost is \$3. For more information, call the Human Services Help Line at 952-563-4957 V/TTY.



# CELEBRATE FIRE PREVENTION WEEK

## VISIT YOUR FIRE STATION AND PUBLIC SAFETY TRAINING FACILITY

THE CITY’S SIX FIRE STATIONS AND Public Safety Training Facility celebrate National Fire Prevention Week with an open house on **Saturday, October 13, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.** Firefighters, Police and Public Works staff will be on hand, along with a variety of activities, demonstrations and tours. Free t-shirts and temporary tattoos will be available for kids. For more information, call 952-563-4801.



FIRE STATION OPEN HOUSES			
Saturday, October 13, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.			
STATION NO.	ADDRESS	STATION NO.	ADDRESS
1	10 West 95th St.	4	4201 W. 84th St.
2	10601 Xerxes Ave. S.	5	10540 Bush Lake Road
3	2050 E. 86th St.	6	8601 Lakeview Road



EACH YEAR, THOUSANDS OF MINNESOTANS are affected by disasters. Tornadoes, floods, fires and other emergencies have a lasting impact on both lives and property. To help every resident prepare for emergencies, the Minnesota Department of Health and Minnesota Department of Public Safety have joined forces to create CodeReady.

CodeReady educates Minnesotans about the importance of emergency preparedness and provides the tools they need to prepare. One campaign element is [codeready.org](http://codeready.org), a Web site that helps families create a customized emergency plan and identifies what emergency supplies they should keep on hand. The site also connects visitors to

emergency preparedness resources and volunteer opportunities in the area.

“We’ve been involved with making plans for how the City will respond in emergency situations for some time,” said Public Health Administrator Karen Zeleznak. “This campaign will help citizens take the actions they need to keep themselves and their families safe.”

With CodeReady, Minnesota is one of the first states in the nation to develop an all-hazard preparedness campaign. For more information, visit [codeready.org](http://codeready.org) or call Bloomington Public Health’s Roz Johnson at 952-563-8995 or Lisa Brodsky at 952-563-4962 or Fire Chief and Emergency Manager Ulie Seal at 952-563-4801.



### NOMINATIONS SOUGHT

THE BLOOMINGTON HUMAN RIGHTS Commission is seeking nominations for the Omar Bonderud Human Rights Award. The Commission will honor an individual, business, volunteer group or religious group that has demonstrated leadership in promoting human rights in our city. The award recipient will be publicly recognized and receive a plaque. The deadline for Omar Bonderud Award nominations is **September 14**.

To receive an application, call 952-563-8733 or download a form at [www.ci.bloomington.mn.us](http://www.ci.bloomington.mn.us), keywords: Omar Bonderud.

# TUNE IN TO SOME GREAT MUSIC

## 2007 FALL MUSIC SHOW



COME LISTEN TO COUNTRY MUSIC AND plenty of standards performed by the Crickets and the Renegades on **Thursday, September 27, 1 p.m.**, Schneider Theater, Bloomington Center for the Arts, 1800 W. Old Shakopee Road. Tickets are \$3 at the door. Free admission to children age 12 and under. For group tickets, call Lois Liudahl at 952-831-3199. For more information, the Human Services Help Line at 952-563-4957 V/TTY.



ADULT SPORTS

YOUTH SPORTS

SHARING THE ROAD  
WITH BICYCLISTS  
RULES OF THE ROAD



BICYCLISTS AND MOTORISTS ARE equally responsible for bicycle safety. Motorist behaviors, such as inattention and distraction, attribute to about one-half of all bicycle-motor vehicle collisions. The other half is attributed to bicyclist behaviors, such as disregarding a traffic control sign or signal. The Minnesota Department of Transportation and the State Bicycle Advisory Committee present eight rules of the road that can make bicycling more safe and enjoyable for everyone.

- 1 According to Minnesota law, bicyclists may ride on all Minnesota roads, except where restricted.
- 2 When riding on the road, bicyclists must ride in the same direction as traffic.
- 3 Motorists must at all times maintain a three-foot clearance when passing a bicyclist.
- 4 Bicyclists must obey all traffic control signs and signals, just as motorists do.
- 5 Motorists and bicyclists must yield the right-of-way to each other.
- 6 Bicyclists should signal their turns and should ride in a predictable manner.
- 7 Lights and reflectors are required at night.
- 8 Bicyclists should always wear helmets.

Source: Minnesota Department of Transportation

RECREATIONAL FIRES  
BE COURTEOUS – BE SAFE

BEFORE YOU LIGHT A FIRE IN THE backyard, be sure you are following City ordinances and being courteous to your neighbors. A recreational fire used for cooking, warming or ceremonial purposes cannot be more than three feet in diameter and two feet high. Light the fire after 7 a.m. and douse it before midnight. These fires must be 25 feet from any property line, structure or combustible material.

If winds are greater than 10 miles per hour, no recreational fire should be started or continued. Check wind direction so the smoke does not negatively impact your neighbors.

For more information, visit the City’s Web site at [www.ci.bloomington.mn.us](http://www.ci.bloomington.mn.us), keywords: Recreational fires, or call Fire Prevention at 952-563-8933.

WOMEN’S AND CO-REC  
VOLLEYBALL

LEAGUES ARE HELD MONDAY THROUGH Friday beginning **Monday, October 15**, and continuing through mid-March. Cost is \$475 resident and \$530 nonresident. For more information, call Parks and Recreation.



SPORTS HALL OF FAME  
BLOOMINGTON ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION  
SALUTES VOLUNTEERS

EACH YEAR, BLOOMINGTON ATHLETIC Association inducts one or more persons into the Sports Hall of Fame. The award honors men and women who have contributed their time and energy to the growth of amateur sports.

When: Thursday, October 11.

Where: Knights of Columbus Hall, 1114 W. 79th St.

For more information, call Dan Wallerus at 952-884-6675.

CONTACT PARKS AND RECREATION AT 952-563-8877 FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THESE ACTIVITIES.

AR&LE

THE ADAPTIVE RECREATION & LEARNING Exchange (AR&LE ) provides opportunities for individuals with disabilities living in Bloomington, Eden Prairie, Edina and Richfield to participate in recreational and educational programs that are specially designed to meet varied ability levels. For more information, call Parks and Recreation.

GARDENS IN BLOOM  
FLOWERS PAINT CITY’S GOLF COURSES WITH COLOR

THE CITY’S GOLF COURSES, DWAN AND Hyland Greens, welcome about 90,000 players during the 210-day golf season. Dwan is one of the busiest 18-hole public courses in Minnesota. According to Golf Course Manager Rick Sitek, with so many visitors, it is important that the golf courses present a positive image of the City.

“We make the golf courses look as attractive as other courses,” Sitek said. “Our goal is to give people who play here a country-club atmosphere on a public course.”



Flowers beautify the well-maintained courses. In addition to the course’s many perennials, close to 11,000 annuals are planted at Dwan and Hyland Greens each year. It takes staff two weeks to get the beds ready and two weeks to plant the flowers that are all in the ground by Memorial Day.

The City’s seasonal maintenance workers Mary Claire Relf, *below left*, and Linda White plant and maintain the flowers. At the end of each season, they discuss what they will order and plant the following spring. Relf said she likes to change the flowers around to see what looks good.

“I just love to experiment,” Relf said. “After I plant the flowers, it’s always a ‘wait and see’ kind of thing.”

The color starts to peak in July. But it is in September, right before the frost, when the plants are at their absolute best.



Relf draws her experience from working in her own garden for 30 years.

“I love this job and the fresh air,” Relf said. “When we leave our jobs we’re tired, but I never get tired of the compliments we receive on the flowers. It’s wonderful.”

For information about the City’s golf courses, call 952-563-8702 or visit the City’s Web site at [www.ci.bloomington.mn.us](http://www.ci.bloomington.mn.us), key words: Golf course.

2007 GENERAL ELECTION – VOTE NOVEMBER 6  
ELECTION FOR MAYOR, CITY COUNCIL AND SCHOOL DISTRICT OFFICES

THE CANDIDATE FILING PERIOD CLOSED on Tuesday, July 17. The following candidates have filed for City office:

Mayor

Jeff Andrews  
Gene Winstead

Councilmember At Large

Amy Darr Grady  
Ray Heinonen

Councilmember District III

Steve Elkins

Councilmember District IV

Carlan Lesch  
Vern Wilcox

**No primary election will be conducted.** A primary election is only required for any City office for which there are more than two candidates.

For more voting and election information, visit the City’s Web site at [www.ci.bloomington.mn.us](http://www.ci.bloomington.mn.us), keyword: Voting, or call 952-563-8729. Look for more detailed election information in the October *Briefing*.

HOW TO REGISTER TO VOTE

To vote, you must be a U.S. citizen, at least 18 years old, a Minnesota

resident for at least 20 days on election day and properly registered.

**To pre-register** – At least 20 days before the election day, complete a Voter Registration Application, available at most government offices, public libraries or on the Secretary of State’s Web site <http://www.sos.state.mn.us>.

You may register in person or mail the application to the Bloomington City Clerk or Hennepin County Voter Registration Office.

You must re-register if:

- Your name or address changes.
- You have not voted in four years.

**To register at the polling place on election day** – One of the following must be provided as proof of residence:

- Valid Minnesota driver’s license, learner’s permit or receipt of either with current address located in precinct.
- Valid Minnesota I.D. or receipt with current address located in precinct.
- A registered voter in the precinct who can vouch for you.
- Registration in the same precinct indicating a previous address.
- Mailed notice from the Registration Office indicating late registration.

NEW POLLING SITE  
PRECINCT 4 CHANGE

Voters in Precinct 4 will be voting at a new location this year. Precinct 4 is the area from I-494 to 86th Street between Lyndale and Portland Avenues. Voters who formerly voted at Emmaus Lutheran Church, 8443 2nd Ave. S., will now vote at Unity South Church, 7950 1st Ave. S.



- A tribal I.D. with name, address, signature and picture of the individual.
- Students can show their address in the precinct by using a current fee statement and an I.D. card.
- Voters may also register using a combination of one photo ID and one approved utility bill.

For details, visit the City’s Web site at [www.ci.bloomington.mn.us](http://www.ci.bloomington.mn.us), keyword: Voting.





## BOOT BUCKTHORN!! STOP THIS NOXIOUS WEED

BUCKTHORN GROWS QUICKLY, CHOKING beneficial native trees, shrubs and wildflowers. Infested areas develop soil erosion and water quality problems. Help stop buckthorn's spread by removing it from your property or volunteering to remove it in parks through the City's Adopt-a-Park program. Free tool kits with a weed wrench and loppers are available for removing plants up to two-and-a-half inches in diameter. For more information, visit the City's Web site at [www.ci.bloomington.mn.us](http://www.ci.bloomington.mn.us), keyword: Buckthorn, or call 952-563-8751.



Identifying Buckthorn: Between the buds, look for a thorn that resembles the hoofprint of a buck.

## PROTECTING OUR FOREST TREE DISEASE MONITORING



EMERALD ASH BORER, A DEVASTATING tree disease found in Illinois, is moving westward. The Emerald Ash Borer beetle only attacks ash trees, but all varieties of ash are susceptible and the infested trees usually die.

Although the borer is not in Minnesota yet, Public Works and agencies throughout the state are working with the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) on a detection program. The City has provided five, four- to six-inch diameter ash trees throughout Bloomington for monitoring by the MDA. The City's seven State-certified, diseased tree inspectors are also watching for Emerald Ash Borer disease.

For more information, call Paul Edwardson at 952-563-8762.

*Earth Action Heroes protect the earth. Whether it's saving energy or guarding Bloomington's precious natural resources, these individuals and businesses are making a difference.*

## EARTH ACTION HEROES THE GREEN BUILDERS

THE FLOOR-TO-CEILING GLASS EXTERIORS on the two, 17-story residential towers at Bloomington Central Station reveal the area's surrounding beauty. But the high-performance, well-sealed and insulated glass serves other purposes: it mitigates noise from the nearby airport, provides natural daylight and reduces energy costs for residents.

For this and other construction features, Reflections was recently awarded Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design Certification for New Construction (LEED-NC) by the U.S. Green Building Council. LEED is the internationally recognized green building rating system that provides a framework for designing and constructing sustainable, energy-efficient, high-performance buildings.

Developed and constructed by McGough Companies, Reflections is the

first LEED-NC certified housing complex in Minnesota and among the first LEED-certified, multi-unit residential projects in the United States. Tom McGough, Jr., President, McGough Companies, said his company was thrilled to receive the recognition.

"LEED Certification proves our belief that high-quality design, sustainability and development goals can be compatible," McGough said.

Reflections is the first phase of the 43-acre transit-oriented development aimed at reducing reliance on automobiles. The project is the first suburban development linked to the light rail transit system. According to McGough, Bloomington Central Station's location between an international airport and a national wildlife refuge presented significant challenges for the design and construction.

"We wanted to realize a very cool, contemporary design while making environmentally responsible improvements," McGough said. "The transit-oriented solution became the obvious choice to achieve the highest and best use of the property."



Mayor Gene Winstead presented the LEED Certification to Executive Vice President Tim McGough, McGough Companies, at the Bloomington Central Station Park grand opening in June. *See below.*

## BLOOMINGTON CENTRAL STATION PARK OPENS A "SENSE OF PLACE" CREATED FOR DYNAMIC AIRPORT SOUTH DISTRICT

BLOOMINGTON RESIDENTS RECENTLY became the beneficiaries of a new park maintained and operated by its private owner, Bloomington Central Station, LLC. Because of an agreement with the developer, the public enjoys a limited right of access to the 1.9-acre public park, located at the hub of the Bloomington Central Station development. The park features seating areas, garden rooms, water walls and fountains, paved and lighted walkways and public art.

Construction of the \$4 million park was funded with \$800,000 in transit-oriented development grants from Hennepin County, \$2.7 million in grants from the Metropolitan Council and \$500,000 from the developer McGough.

"This has all come together through

collaborative efforts and partnerships," Mayor Gene Winstead said. "The park will give a sense of place to the 43-acre Bloomington Central Station development, the largest transit-oriented development in the region and in the country."

HealthPartners' Executive Vice President Kathy Cooney said the park is beneficial to employees and residents.



"This park builds on what's really important in our community, which is how we make sure we're all healthy and active," Cooney said.

For more information, call Jill Hutmacher at 952-563-8541.





# TRANSPORTATION AND TRAFFIC UPDATES

## SPECIAL ASSESSMENTS IMPROVING PUBLIC SERVICES



CITY STREETS, SIDEWALKS, STORM sewers, street lights, parks and other recreational areas require upgrades. The City issues special assessments to help fund the construction of public improvements. By law, a special assessment may be issued when a municipality requires a specially assessed improvement or a property owner petitions for a public improvement.

When a special assessment funds a project, the City sells bonds to cover the project cost and then pays off the bonds by collecting funds from property owners who benefited from the project. A property owner may pay the assessment immediately or spread payments over a specified time period. The assessment with interest is then included on the owner's property tax statement.

The City's Pavement Management Program (PMP) routinely uses special assessments. The PMP, in place for 14 years, takes the appropriate action at the optimum time for maintaining City streets using a database of all City-owned streets. When a street is scheduled for reconstruction as part of the PMP, special assessments pay 25 percent of the cost. In addition to reconstruction, overlays and sealcoats are included in the PMP, but are not assessed at this time.

For more information, contact Jen Desrude at 952-563-4862, e-mail [jdesrude@ci.bloomington.mn.us](mailto:jdesrude@ci.bloomington.mn.us) or visit the City's Web site at [www.ci.bloomington.mn.us](http://www.ci.bloomington.mn.us), keyword: Pavement management.

## REDUCING CONGESTION, IMPROVING SAFETY EAST BUSH LAKE ROAD IMPROVEMENTS BEGIN

IMPROVEMENTS ARE UNDERWAY AT 84th Street and East Bush Lake Road that will reduce congestion and improve safety. Construction of additional lanes, enhanced signals, and additional sidewalks and bikeways began in June and is scheduled for completion next spring. The project is funded from a variety of sources including federal, county and City dollars. During the majority of construction, one lane of traffic in each direction will remain open. For more information, visit the special projects section on the home page of the City's Web site at [www.ci.bloomington.mn.us](http://www.ci.bloomington.mn.us).



### NEW TOOL FOR MOTORISTS

For an easy-to-remember link to current road construction, visit [www.cityroads.info](http://www.cityroads.info).

## MAC TO CLOSE RUNWAY FOR RECONSTRUCTION RESIDENTS WILL EXPERIENCE IMPACT FROM AUGUST TO OCTOBER



THIS SUMMER AND FALL, RESIDENTS LIVING NEAR THE Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport (MSP) will notice a change in aircraft flight patterns. MSP's south parallel runway, where flights approach and depart over Minneapolis and Eagan, will close for reconstruction, beginning August 13. During the two-month closure, crosswind Runway 4/22 over Bloomington and Runway 17/35 will be used for additional arrivals and departures. For more information, visit Metropolitan Airports Commission's (MAC) airport noise Web site at [www.macnoise.com](http://www.macnoise.com), or call MAC at 712-725-6455 or Carolyn Lane, City of Bloomington, at 952-563-8948.

## LOCAL STREET TRAFFIC CONCERNS OPEN HOUSES TO BE HELD



ARE YOU CONCERNED ABOUT THE TRAFFIC ON YOUR LOCAL STREET? THE CITY'S TRAFFIC Management Program uses techniques to try to alleviate neighborhood traffic concerns. Two neighborhoods will be selected for the 2008 program that was approved by the City Council. An open house will be held **Monday, September 24, 5 - 7 p.m.**, in the Public Works Training Room, 1700 W. 98th St. For more information, call Paul L. Jarvis at 952-563-4548.

## ALTERNATIVE TRANSPORTATION PLANNING A VISION FOR THE FUTURE

BLOOMINGTON IS CURRENTLY CREATING AN ALTERNATIVE TRANSPORTATION PLAN THAT will encourage more sustainable transportation options, reduce motorized traffic, and provide recreational and exercise opportunities. Alternative transportation includes walking, bicycling, personal transportation assistance devices, rollerblading and mass transit such as light rail and bus.

To gather public input, a community open house will be held on **Thursday, August 16, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.**, in the Council Chambers at Bloomington Civic Plaza, 1800 W. Old Shakopee Road. Public input will also be solicited through a citizen task force, focus groups, e-mail and written comments, and an online survey. A draft of the plan will be reviewed at an open house this fall.

There is still time to participate in the initial needs assessment. Make your opinion and ideas known by taking the **Bloomington Alternative Transportation Plan Survey, available August 10 - 31**. To participate, visit the City's Web site at [www.ci.bloomington.mn.us](http://www.ci.bloomington.mn.us), keywords: Alternative transportation, or pick up a survey at the Parks and Recreation office in Bloomington Civic Plaza.

For more information, call Randy Quale at 952-563-8877 or visit the City's Web site. E-mail comments to [parksrec@ci.bloomington.mn.us](mailto:parksrec@ci.bloomington.mn.us).



## NEW LOOK AND IMPROVED USABILITY CHECK OUT CITYWEB

THE CITY'S REDESIGNED WEB SITE, CityWEB, recently went live. Sidebars and photos give an upbeat message to the site's 250,000 annual visitors.

The redesign provides better access to City information, including several search methods:

- An expanded A-to-Z index.
- A search by keyword function on each page.
- Major services located in a pull-down menu on the home page.
- A new FAQ section.

You'll find expanded City Council history and statistics pages, as well as a new section that provides addresses, maps, hours and functions for more than 25 facilities. The top 10 requested pages are still a click away.

View what's happening around Bloomington. Try these tools:

- **Construction projects** – Choose a specific address and see what projects are underway, including development, street construction and utility work in the rights-of-way.
- **Property information** – Enter a parcel and see who owns the property, its size, or its zoning and historical significance.
- **Sealcoating (seasonal)** – Look for weekly updates on sealcoating of streets throughout Bloomington.
- **Street sweeping (seasonal)** – Each April, City crews spiff up our roads.
- **Zoning information** – View a parcel's zoning designation with a link to the City Code's zoning descriptions.
- **LOGIS 90-Day crime map** – View crimes committed in Bloomington within the last 90 days.

For more information, call Jan Norbeck at 952-563-4929.

## CIVIC PLAZA NOW A WI-FI HOTSPOT LOG ON FOR FREE

THE CITY RECENTLY INSTALLED A Wi-Fi network at Bloomington Civic Plaza, 1800 W. Old Shakopee Road. When visiting the facility, surfers may log on to the Internet at no cost using their own

mobile devices. For more information, contact Amy Cheney at 952-563-4877 or e-mail [acheney@ci.bloomington.mn.us](mailto:acheney@ci.bloomington.mn.us).







BLOOMINGTON  
CENTER FOR THE ARTS

PRATT, SCHEIB AND SCHMIDT  
EMBRACEABLE YOU

This talented trio presents a delightful review of music by Cole Porter and the Gershwin Brothers. **Saturday, October 6, 2007.**

MARCOUX CORNER  
CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Kick off the holidays with the pure vocal extravagance of the a cappella group Marcoux Corner. **Saturday, November 24, 2007.**

MONROE CROSSING  
HOLIDAY CONCERT



Celebrate the holiday season with the Midwest's premier bluegrass and gospel quintet. **Saturday, December 22, 2007.**

J.J. & BEYOND  
CELEBRATING THE JAZZ TROMBONIST

Michael Nelson, Dave Graf and the Local Damaging Winds with the Mary Louise Knutson Trio and vocalist Connie Evingson jazz it up. **Sunday, January 6, 2008.**

BEYOND CATEGORY:  
THE ELLINGTON AND STRAYHORN  
SONGBOOK

Jazz vocalists Maud Hixson, Lucia Newell and Dennis Spears with the Rick Carlson Trio perform. **Saturday, April 12, 2008.**

TONIC SOL-FA

Called a vocal kaleidoscope... unique to the human voice, this a cappella group is among the best. **Friday, June 6, 2008.**



MADE IN AMERICA

This American-made music includes everything from marches to musicals. **Sunday, November 18, 2007.**

MARCHES FOR MARCH!

The band will explore a range of marches and overtures, including works by Bernstein, Grieg, Offenbach and Sousa. **Sunday, March 2, 2008.**

PASSPORT TO EUROPE

This musical tour stops in England with Elgar, in France with Saint-Saëns, in Spain with Turina and more. **Sunday, May 18, 2008.**

2007 - 2008  
PERFORMANCE SERIES

THIS YEAR THE BLOOMINGTON CENTER FOR THE ARTS PERFORMANCE SERIES HAS expanded to include dance and theater in addition to bringing back great jazz, choral and band concerts! All performances are wheelchair-accessible and held in either the Schneider or Black Box Theaters located in the Bloomington Center for the Arts at the corner of 98th Street and West Old Shakopee Road. Assisted listening devices are available.

DAY	DATE	TIME	EVENT	ADULT	SENIOR/ STUDENT
2007					
SA	Oct 6	7:30 p.m.	Embraceable You	\$19	\$17
F - SA	Oct 12 - Nov 3	7:30 p.m.	The Hollow	\$17	\$14
SU	Oct 14 - Nov 4	2 p.m.	The Hollow	\$17	\$14
TH	Nov 1	7:30 p.m.	The Hollow	\$17	\$14
SU	Nov 18	4 p.m.	Made in America	\$10	\$8
SA	Nov 24	7:30 p.m.	Marcoux Corner Christmas	\$19	\$17
F - SA	Nov 30 - Dec 15	7:30 p.m.	Best Christmas Pageant Ever	\$17	\$14
SU	Dec 2 - Dec 16	2 p.m.	Best Christmas Pageant Ever	\$17	\$14
SA	Dec 15	7:30 p.m.	Celebrating Silver with Gold	\$12	\$10
SU	Dec 16	3 p.m.	Celebrating Silver with Gold	\$12	\$10
SA	Dec 22	7:30 p.m.	Monroe Crossing Holiday	\$21	\$19
2008					
SU	Jan 6	2 p.m.	J.J. & Beyond	\$19	\$17
F - SA	Feb 8 - 23	7:30 p.m.	On Golden Pond	\$17	\$14
SU	Feb 10 - 24	2 p.m.	On Golden Pond	\$17	\$14
TH	Feb 21	7:30 p.m.	On Golden Pond	\$17	\$14
SU	Mar 2	4 p.m.	Marches for March!	\$10	\$8
SA	Apr 12	7:30 p.m.	Beyond Category	\$19	\$17
F - SA	Apr 25 - May 10	7:30 p.m.	Loudmouth George	\$12	\$10
SU	Apr 27, May 4	2 p.m.	Loudmouth George	\$12	\$10
SU	May 18	4 p.m.	Passport to Europe	\$10	\$8
SA	May 31	7:30 p.m.	Celebrating the Founder	\$12	\$10
SU	Jun 1	3 p.m.	Celebrating the Founder	\$12	\$10
F	Jun 6	7:30 p.m.	Tonic Sol-Fa	\$21	\$19
F - SA	Jun 6 - 21	7:30 p.m.	The Girls in 509	\$17	\$14
SU	Jun 8 - 22	2 p.m.	The Girls in 509	\$17	\$14
TH - SA	July 10 - 26	7:30 p.m.	Cool Chills	\$17	\$14



CREATE A SERIES AND  
SAVE UP TO 25%

Order tickets for four or more events to create a performance series multi-pass and save \$2 per ticket. Discount can be applied to adult and senior/student tickets, but it is not valid with other discounts.

THREE EASY WAYS TO ORDER TICKETS

- By phone: Call the BFAC Box Office at 952-563-8575.
- Online: Visit [www.bloomingtoncivictheatre.org](http://www.bloomingtoncivictheatre.org), select "order tickets."
- In person: Call 952-563-8575 for box office hours. Due to the seasonal nature of our organization, box office hours change according to demand.

All seats are reserved. Orders received less than seven days prior to the performance will be held for pick up at the box office. No tickets will be held without full payment in advance. Programs and artists are subject to change. All ticket sales are final. No refunds or exchanges allowed.



BLOOMINGTON ART CENTER  
GALLERY THEATER COMPANY

All shows are in the Black Box Theater.

THE HOLLOW  
BY AGATHA CHRISTIE

This great mystery is full of rich eccentrics, poor relations and loyal servants. **Friday - Sunday, October 12 - November 4, 2007.**

THE BEST CHRISTMAS PAGEANT  
EVER BY BARBARA ROBINSON

This story of effort and understanding brings home the Christmas message in a comic way. **Friday - Sunday, November 30 - December 16, 2007.**

ON GOLDEN POND  
BY ERNEST THOMPSON

A touching story of one couple's annual trip to their summer home and the family that visits them there. **Friday - Sunday, February 8 - 24, 2008.**

LOUDMOUTH GEORGE AND THE  
SIXTH GRADE BULLY

When a big sixth grader jumps him and steals his lunch, George's life takes a turn for the worse. **Friday - Saturday, April 25 - May 10, 2008.**

THE GIRLS IN 509  
BY HOWARD TEICHMANN

This hilarious comedy will tickle your funny bone. **Friday - Sunday, June 6 - 22, 2008.**

Cool Chills on a  
Hot Summer Night

Return to the golden days of radio for scary "cool chills." **Thursday - Saturday, July 10 - 26, 2008.**

Bloomington Chorale



CELEBRATING SILVER WITH GOLD

Vivaldi's *Gloria*, the first concert performed by the Chorale in 1982, is the glorious gold that kicks off the group's Silver Anniversary Celebration. **Saturday - Sunday, December 15 - 16, 2007.**

CELEBRATING THE FOUNDER OF  
OUR FEAST

David Docter, founding director, is feted with selections from *Elijah* by Mendelssohn and others. **Saturday - Sunday, May 31 - June 1, 2008.**